Comprehensive Policy for Promotion of Investment in Hotel Industry

2140. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn out a comprehensive policy providing wide ranging financial and fiscal incentives for promotion of investment in hotel industry including substantial relief in interest and capital subsidies for promotion of tourism;

(b) if so, the details of existing fiscal and financial incentives under various schemes for promotion of tourism and new package of incentives proposed;

(c) the details of major thrust areas identifies for promotion of tourism and action plan worked out for implementation during the current year; and

(d) the details of projects proposed by the Government of Maharashtra for approval of the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For the promotion of investment in hotel industry, a number of financial and fiscal incentives are available which include interest subsidy for specified hotel categories, import of project/capital equipment/raw materials etc. A number of tax concessions are also available under various Sections of the Income Tax Act etc.

The new package of incentives recently announced by the Finance Minister include further reduction in the import duties for equipment and other items required by the hotel industry and also the concessions for construction of new hotels at specified centres in the country.

(c) Development and promotion of tourism infrastructure is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Action Plan worked out by the Department of Tourism has indentified Circuits and destinations for intensive development in association with the State Governments/ Private Sector.

(d) Details of projects prioritised for Central Financial assistance for Maharashtra for the year 1996-97 are as under:-

(1) Tourist Complex at Kunkeshwar

(2) Tourist complex-cum-crafts centre at Village Pinguli.

(3) Guest House-cum-Water Sports at Lake Dhampur.

(4) Konkani House at: (a) Harihareshwar, District, Raigad. (b) Gahapatipule, District, Ratnagiri.

(5) Upgradation of toilets at Hotel Shirdi.

(6) Upgradation of Hill Resort, Aurangabad.

Doubling of Railway Line between Kollam and Trivandrum

2141. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of doubling the Railway line between Kollam and Trivandrum;

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(c) whether certain trains which conclude their journey at Ernakulam and Alappuzha are likely to be extended to Kollam considering the fact that the doubling in between Kollam and Kayamkulam has already been completed;

(d) if so, trains which are likely to be extended up to Quilon; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Work is making good progress. Trivandrum-Kochuveli is expected to be completed by April' 97. Further progress will be possible after State Government makes available the land.

(c) It has been decided to extend 6315/6316 Howrah-Cochin Express up to Trivandrum via Alleppey-Quilon. There is, however, no such proposal at present to extend trains upto Quilon.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Due to resource and operational constraints, including terminal/maintenance constraints at Quilon.

Opening of Post Offices in North Mumbai

2142. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry have identified the areas in the suburbs of North Mumbai where opening of new post office is necessary;

(b) if so, the time bound programme drawn up to acquire accommodation to start new post offices there; and

(c) the difficulties experienced by the Department in acquiring new premises?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Continued efforts are made to locate suitable accommodation for housing newly sanctioned Post Offices. Accommodation is however, not readily available and there has been no response from the local authorities on the subject.

Compensation Paid to Victims or Their Families

2143. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DALIPSINGH GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the compensation paid to the victims or their families due to accidents on unmanned level crossings during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): No compensation has been paid to the dependents of dead or injured persons